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UNCLAS COLOMBO 3068
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IS
SUBJ: SRI LANKAN CRITICISM OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAQI NUCLEAR FACILITIES
1. SRI LANKAN NEWSPAPERS JUNE 11 CARRIED FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS RELEASE OF JUNE 10 CONDEMNING ISRAELI STRIKE:
QUOTE
SRI LANKA IS GREATLY PERTURBED OVER THE ISRAELI BOMBING OF A NUCLEAR REACTOR IN IRAQ.
THIS IS A VIOLATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF NATIONS. THIS DISREGARD FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW CAN HAVE THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. SRI LANKA CONDEMNS THIS ACTION AND CALLS ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DEAL SUITABLY WITH THIS VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.
SRI LANKA EXPRESSES HER SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH IRAQ ON THIS ISSUE.
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2. DISTRACTED BY COMMUNAL STRIKE IN NORTH OF SRI LANKA PUBLIC REACTION TO AND NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE ON RAID HAVE BEEN SLIGHT. WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, MAINLY REUTERS, HAVE DESCRIBED EVENT OFF FRONT PAGE. ONLY KNOWN ALLEGATION OF US LINKAGE TO EVENT WAS IN EDITORIAL OF COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY ATHTHA JUNE 10; PIECE EMPHASIZED THAT OUTRAGE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF UNITED STATES. NEWS COVERAGE ON NATION'S ONE TELEVISION CHANNEL REPLAYED US NETWORK TAPE SHOWING AMERICAN WAR PLANES AND VOICING OFFICIAL US CONCERN OVER IMPROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT. HIGHLY PROBABLE, HOWEVER, THAT SIGNED COMMENTARIES AGAINST RAID WILL APPEAR IN MOST SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS, PROVIDED TAMIL-SINHALESE VIOLENCE DOES NOT RE-ERUPT IN NEXT FEW DAYS.
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